



## **Arlington Disability Commission Agenda**

**Date:** Wednesday, October 19, 2022

**Time:** 4:00pm

**Location:** Conducted by Remote Participation

**\*Notice to the Public on meeting privacy\*** In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

When: Oct 19, 2022 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting: <https://town-arlington-ma-us.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMlfuCupzwtHtHyJA99spLfplSKOcJz0DqK>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees: Cynthia DeAngelis, Grace Carpenter, Kerrie Fallon, Ileana Gatica, Karen Mathiasen, Paul Parravano, Michael Rademacher, Paul Raia

Guests: Janice Cagan-Teuber, Jennifer Susse, Rebecca Bell, Sarah Forster, Rebecca Gruber

Absent: Liza Molina

Minutes:

Meeting called to order at 4:07pm by Paul Paravanno

1. Call to Order, Read Ground Rules, Welcome (5 min)
2. Ground rules (2 min)

- a. [Please don't use Zoom chat/messaging during the meeting, unless that is your primary way to participate in a meeting. The co-chairs have disabilities that make it hard to deal with Zoom chat/messaging]
3. Approve Draft September Meeting Minutes (2 min)
  - a. Motion to approve minutes by Raia, seconded by Fallon. Approved unanimously
4. Hybrid meetings (Janice, Jennifer 30 min)
  - a. With COVID many meetings have moved to remote. Anticipation that many committees will have to return to in person soon, disability commission has an exception (although a chair must be present in person). Jennifer's group has been exploring hybrid participation for all committees, wants to test protocols and technology. Town has invested in a lot of this technology (Neat boards, OWLS, etc.). Jennifer wants committees to be able to use whatever works best for that group, not necessarily the same set up for all committees. Pilot committees would test protocols and report back to Jennifer, what works, what doesn't. Commissioner Paravanno asked if all three co-chairs would need to be present, Jennifer stated that she thinks only one co-chair would have to be present in person. Commissioner Raia asked why a co-chair needs to be present, Jennifer believes it has to do with open meeting laws. Commissioner asked about wording of the law requiring a co-chair to be present, Jennifer is calling in from her phone but will check her computer when she's able too. Commissioner Parravano expressed interest in being a pilot so we could provide feedback and try new technology out, hopes it will maximize participation. Commissioner Carpenter asked when this pilot would begin, Jennifer stated they would like to begin ASAP (November's meeting). Staff person (Tim Ross) would be trained on technology (Neat bar pro) and hopefully a commissioner as well. Pilot would benefit from a few commissioners being in person to test. Commissioner Parravano volunteered to be present. Commissioner Rademacher agreed. Commissioner Raia expressed concerned about not being able to operate the equipment, being visually impaired, and having to get there during inclement weather. Commissioner Deangelis expressed remote meetings have seen greater outside participation. Jennifer stated it's helpful to have the disability commission pilot the program because people with disabilities would join other commission meetings, and our input would help better those meetings. Commissioner Fallon asked if we know how legislator will rewrite open meeting laws to require a co-chair to be in person or not. Commissioner Deangelis reaffirmed the data we gather could be helpful for disabled folks to attend other meetings, as well as help senior citizens attend meetings. Commissioner Gatica expressed this could provide more flexibility. Jennifer stated there are two decision points, 1) what happens if there is a technical failure in the room (do we continue, pause, stop) 2) how do you recognize members of the public that want to speak (both in person and remote). For in person meetings, the camera will not be able to display who is speaking so speakers would have to identify themselves prior to speaking. Jill Harvey stated remote meetings can also be inaccessible for people, for example those without internet. Janice Cagan-Teuber stated she thinks it's important for our commission to pilot the program in order to help accessibility/feedback. Commissioner Carpenter motioned for commission to participate in the pilot,

Commissioner Gatica seconded. Approved unanimously. Pilot will last until March/April. Jennifer stated a chair will need to fill out a final survey.

5. Outreach Working Group (Teresa, Ileana, 10 min)

- a. Teresa Marzilli has been heading outreach working groups with Commissioners Carpenter, Gatica and Fallon. What partnerships do we want to engage with, avenues to explore? Some ideas are Boys & Girls Club, parents, Arlington Youth Soccer, and a newsletter. Working group will meet again next week. Commissioner Raia stated we should reach out to parents of children with disabilities. Should members of commission speak at PTA meetings? Commission can be advocates for these children in the school system. Commissioner Deangelis stated there are regulations and laws around advocacy for schools. Expressed we should be supporting special education teams at schools. Raia wants to support educators to enact change in their system, not necessarily work directly with parents. Deangelis stated we should involve our state rep as an advocate. Raia stated Arlington has a large elderly population and we should reach out to them, potentially through the COA. Gatica wants to work with DIG and SEPAC, organize ourselves to reach out to those groups. We can figure out how to be helpful by reaching out to these groups for feedback, work with existing groups. Deangelis thinks we should have a group day where we can engage with other groups.

6. Recreation (10 min)

a. TOPSoccer (Ileana)

- Program that brings soccer to kids with an intellectual disability. Arlington started this Spring, second session will be this Fall. Travis leads the program. Gatica's daughter is participating, stated it's a great opportunity to engage with her community and that the program raises awareness to kids with disabilities. Asked if the commission can be a resource to TOPSoccer, to guide volunteers (middle and high schoolers) with interacting with kids who play. TOPSoccer and Travis could invite us to meetings if they have questions. Deangelis asked if volunteers are recruited and if we could be a part of their orientation process. Parravano stated we could be a resource in advertising these types of programs. We will invite Travis to November's meeting for more information.

7. Understanding Our Differences program (Sarah F, 15 min)

- a. Grant at all 7 elementary schools in Arlington. Disability awareness program that educates students to value and accept people of all disabilities. Teach students a variety of units that cover different disabilities. Each unit covers a specific disability, how they come about, how people live with the disability, and a guest speaker. Students have an opportunity to ask questions at the end of each session. 30,000 students have been educated in the state by this program. Hoping to get Arlington residents as guest speakers. Grant was approved for professional development for PreK-12 teachers, curriculum for nine presentations, paying guest speakers, training for APS by UOD staff, training guest speakers, and books for classrooms (grade 3-5). Asked for our support in advertising the program and getting the word out as well as recruiting local speakers. Also requested a point person for questions and advice. The grant is only funded for one year, hoping to make it a permanent part of Arlington Public Schools. Support UOD when they go in front of school committee in the

Spring. Janice Cagan-Teuber expressed concern over the differences in life experiences of deaf/hard of hearing people is presented. Commissioner Deangelis volunteered to be the point person for UOD. Commissioner Raia volunteered to be a guest speaker.

8. BB&N School design challenge (Paul P, 5 min)

- a. Marnie Klein, a teacher at BB&N runs a science club with a fall and spring project. Custom technology to help improve a daily task of someone who is disabled. End of January to April/May. Club meets once per week, volunteer would meet 3-4 times with students. Students would then show volunteer prototypes of their tech/instrument. Last year worked with commissioner Parravano to create a liquid measuring device to help visually impaired folks measure liquid medication. Club also works with MIT Beaver Works, assistive technology for high schoolers. Commissioner Cynthia suggested a way for visually impaired to recognize someone raising their hand in a zoom meeting. Commissioner Parravano emphasized how well the project works, bringing together teachers, students, and people with disabilities. Commissioner Deangelis asked how Marnie typically recruits volunteers for the project. Suggested Marnie to reach out to special education departments at Cambridge and Arlington schools. Commissioner Raia stated he has been an adviser for a women's engineering college and would be happy to connect Marnie with them. Project meets 4-5PM and all travel expenses are reimbursed.

9. Commission Events – Farmer's Market (Tim, 5 min)

- a. Jill, Teresa and Commissioner Carpenter were at the Farmer's Market. Commissioner Carpenter talked about her experience trying to interact with a deaf person and the difficulties of public outreach. Teresa brought up how beneficial it would be for Janice to give the commission a broad sign language lesson. Stated we should include events in the outreach group.

10. Other Updates (30 min)

- a. DEI (Tim)
  - MOD grants
    - Two grants submitted. One for repaving the Town Hall Annex parking lot in conjunction with the Grand Plaza being redo. Second for adding A/V equipment to the O'Neill conference room including Neat board, OWLS, directional microphones, conduit for AMCi.
- b. Communication Boards brochure/flyer is available (Grace)
- c. DPW (Mike)
  - Work on Pleasant Street – water line repair this winter, traffic will be impacted, pedestrian traffic should not be impacted
- d. Transportation (Paul R)
  - Collaboration with COA [Tabled]
- e. Snow Clearing (Grace, Paul R, Paul P)
  - Wording should be included on Town website and public phone calls for snow emergencies to properly clear sidewalks.

11. Other announcements

- a. MOD's [Disability Summit: Accessibility in a Digital World](#): Thursday, October 27, 2022, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. featuring our own Paul P!
- b. Reminders about voting (Paul P) [Tabled]

12. Next Meeting Wednesday November 16, 2022 at 4PM

### 13. Closing

At 6:01 motion to adjourn by Parravano, seconded by Carpenter. All in favor.

Commission members not able to attend please email [dei@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:dei@town.arlington.ma.us) prior to the scheduled meeting.

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance in order to attend this meeting should contact [dei@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:dei@town.arlington.ma.us). This meeting is open to all interested individuals.